

International travelers may increase advance limit

(Continued from Page 1)

ATM's are provided on site for traveler's convenience with a \$500 per day withdrawal limit. Currently, the on-site ATM's are set with a \$200 maximum withdrawal, per transaction and the JSC Credit Union is looking into increasing this limit to \$300 per transaction.

"If an employee is authorized a travel advance amount higher than \$200, it will require two, or more, sequential transactions to withdraw the appropriate amount," Conder said.

When the ATM option of the American Express program was implemented at JSC in January, all government charge cardholders were authorized an ATM advance limit of \$300, per day, for use in performing official travel within the U.S., Conder said. The \$300 authorized amount is normally enough

to cover most official domestic travel situations. Employees performing frequent official international travel may request an increase in their ATM cash advance limit to \$500, in any 24-hour period, not to exceed \$1,500 in a seven-day period. Employees requiring this increase should contact the JSC program coordinator of the American Express program before traveling.

"American Express normally responds to a written request from the program coordinator within 48 hours and the increased amount may then be accessed by the traveler," Conder added. "It is important to plan in advance for official international travel to allow enough turn around time for any required actions."

Employees who do not have a government-issued charge card are encouraged to apply

for one if they plan on performing official travel. Applications are available for pick up in the Travel Funding office in Bldg. 1, Rm. 122. Completed applications may be submitted to LF341/Travel Claims, for processing, after which they will be forwarded to American Express. Employees will receive the card in the mail at their home seven to 10 days later. A Personal Identification Number is sent to the employee in a separate mailing.

"You must have a PIN to obtain a cash advance from an ATM," Conder said.

Employees who do not have a PIN, or have lost or forgotten it, may call 1-800-227-4669 and American Express will issue a new PIN over the telephone.

"We encourage all employees with an American Express card to read the guide thoroughly," Conder said. "The American

Express Cash Advance Program has worked extremely well for government employees. It is important for all traveling employees to understand how the program works in order to gain maximum benefits from the program. The ATM cash advance program offers travelers a readily obtainable source of cash for travel expenses that cannot be covered by the charge card itself. Travelers are encouraged to use the card to charge official Government travel expenses whenever possible."

For more information regarding the Government charge card program, contact Conder at x35805, or the program coordinator Nancy Porter, at x34011. Hard copies of the guide also are available for pick up in Bldg. 1, Rm. 122 or on the Internet, at: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/cfo/atm.html>

Blood drive set during Safety, Total Health Day

Special arrangements have been made for JSC workers to donate blood as part of Safety and Total Health Day on Oct. 23.

Employees wishing to donate blood may visit Teague Auditorium between 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Oct. 23. Employees that will participate in the Safety and Total Health Day Fun Run will not be able to give blood, so St. Luke's personnel will make additional trips to JSC to collect blood.

St. Luke's Donor Coach will be at JSC from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Oct. 22. In addition, employees can donate between 8 a.m.-noon on Oct. 24 in Teague Auditorium. Appointments are required on Oct. 22, due to limited beds on the coach. Appointments are necessary on Oct. 23. or 24 only. if employees plan to donate platelets or plasma. No appointments are necessary for whole blood donations. The previous two blood drives have had record turnouts, and the center hopes to do even better this time. Employees are encouraged to "bring a buddy."

Generally, donors can give blood every eight weeks. In some cases a donor may be deferred if, for example, their blood is low in iron or they've been on certain medications. If prospective donors have questions about how a medical condition may affect their ability to give blood they can call St. Luke's Blood Donor Center at 791-4483.

The process starts with a blood sample. Afterwards, one pint of blood is drawn. The actual collection of blood usually takes seven to 10 minutes, with the whole process taking approximately 30 minutes under normal circumstances. The donated blood undergoes several tests, including the tests for hepatitis and HIV. If there are reactive test results donors are notified by mail. All results are kept confidential. Usually there are no negative reactions to giving blood, but trained personnel are available in case a donor becomes light-headed.

Also, those who donate blood will once again receive a free T-shirt.

For more information about the JSC On-site Blood Drive during Safety and Total Health Day, or to make an appointment, call Dan Mangieri at x33003.



The Hubble Space Telescope captures Jupiter's volcanic moon Io passing above the turbulent clouds of the giant planet. The conspicuous black spot on Jupiter is Io's shadow.

Hubble takes rare portrait of Jupiter, Io

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has taken a rare joint portrait of Jupiter and its volcanically moon Io, as the moon passes above the clouds of the giant gas planet.

The image, taken on July 24, is one of a series of images of Io being taken by Hubble to complement close-up images of Jupiter currently being taken by NASA's Galileo spacecraft. The first images of Io from Galileo have shown active volcanic plumes and obvious surface changes since the two Voyager spacecraft imaged the moon during their Jupiter flybys in 1979.

The conspicuous black spot visible in the crisp black-and-white image of Jupiter is Io's shadow. The shadow, about the size of Io, sweeps across the face of Jupiter at 38,000 miles per hour as the moon orbits 261,600 miles overhead. The smallest details visible on Io and Jupiter are about 100 miles across. Bright patches visible on Io are regions of sulfur dioxide frost. Io is roughly the same size as Earth's Moon.

Though the images from Galileo show much finer detail, Hubble provides complementary information because it can observe Io at ultraviolet wavelengths not seen by Galileo. Hubble also can observe Io at different times than Galileo, and can view Io

under more consistent viewing conditions.

Meanwhile, tape playback of data from Galileo's flyby of Ganymede began as scheduled Sept. 10 and is proceeding as planned. Transmission of images from the encounter, including many images of Io, will continue over the next two months. The images of Io are part of an effort to spot erupting volcanoes on that moon.

The spacecraft is operating properly and executing commands. Project engineers are running tests on an apparent anomaly that occurred early last week with the radio receiver. On two occasions, the receiver failed to lock onto radio signals sent from Earth. The radio has since operated normally. One possible cause for the problem is radiation from Jupiter. A fully redundant radio receiver is on board.

A special sequence designed to use thermal distortion in an attempt to free the filter wheel on the photopolarimeter radiometer instrument was executed as planned but was unsuccessful. The photopolarimeter will be operated in its current position for the Nov. 4 encounter of Callisto, performing radiometry only, project officials said. Additional attempts to free the wheel probably will be made after the flyby.

JSC needs tutors, mentors for Houston area students

By Mae Mangieri

Employees who are interested in making a difference in a student's life now have the opportunity.

Through JSC's Education Outreach Program, employees may volunteer as tutors or mentors.

The following schools in the Clear Creek and Houston Independent School Districts are looking for volunteers for the 1996-97 school year:

Hall Elementary School in League City: More than 30 at-risk students in grades 1 through 5 would greatly benefit from one-on-one tutoring. The areas of need vary from math, reading and reading comprehension, writing and spelling. Students are available for tutoring between 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

League City Elementary School: Volunteers are needed for a one-on-one math and reading mentoring program called Help One Student to Succeed. HOST mentors follow lesson plans which are structured to match student's ability level and learning style. Volunteers may mentor between 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Austin High School: Bilingual, math, reading and writing tutors are needed to help 12th grade students who are scheduled to re-take the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills Test in order to graduate from high school. Volunteers may choose to tutor Monday through Thursday from 3:15-4:15 p.m., or at a one-day tutoring session on Oct. 19, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Jack Yates High School: Mentors are needed for ninth grade students in the "Third Ward Futures" mentoring program that encourages students to stay focused on the college-bound track in order to receive a \$4,000 scholarship upon graduating from high school. The mentor and student should expect to be together from the first year of high school through the first year of college; however, a one-year commitment also is welcomed.

Most volunteers spend at least one hour each week at the school working one-on-one with a student. Schedules are arranged with volunteers so they are assured of working at a specific time on a regular basis. The schools will hold volunteer orientation meetings to discuss tutoring and mentoring responsibilities and how to work with children in public schools.

With supervisory approval, civil service employees may charge their time away from work, including travel time, to a special education labor code. Civil service employees may charge up to 40 hours per calendar year to the special code. For more information, call the Education Outreach Program at x32929.

Station stays on budget

(Continued from Page 1)

time availability.

The Incremental Design Review allowed NASA and its space station partners additional time to complete engineering, subsystem and technical analyses of the proposed assembly sequence to confirm it would be executable. This assembly sequence revision maintains the U.S. capability to complete assembly of its components within both the \$2.1 billion annual spending cap and the \$17.4 billion developmental run-out cost agreed to with Congress and the White House.

Blaha spends free time with movies

(Continued from Page 1)

growth, its metabolic systems and any chemical and structural changes which may occur during growth. As part of the BTS experiment, work growing cartilage cells in the low-gravity station environment also continued. The experiment hopes to investigate long-term on-orbit cell growth.

Blaha also will continue Earth observation, using cameras on board Mir to document changes on the Earth's surface. Recent observation areas include the Panama Canal zone, the central Namibian Coast, the South Falkland Island ocean currents and South Africa.

Aside from the daily regime and the host of science experiments being conducted on Mir, Blaha said he makes time to contact HAM

radio operators across the United States to stay abreast of current news and catch up on one of the things he misses—sports.

"I get on the HAM radio every time we come over the states, and I learn all sorts of things," Blaha said. "I learned the Yankees beat the Texas Rangers in the 13th inning, and I heard about the Cowboy game shortly after the Monday night game ended against Philadelphia 22-19."

And for entertainment and relaxation, Blaha reports that he brought with him to the station his favorite music, about 50 videos and a photo album with roughly 500 pictures put together by his friends and family. Sight-seeing from Mir also is high on his list of leisure activities.

Space News Roundup

The **Roundup** is an official publication of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, and is published every Friday by the Public Affairs Office.

The Roundup office is located in Bldg. 2, Rm. 181. The mail code is AP2. The main Roundup telephone number is x38648 and the fax number is x45165.

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Internet offers safety day information

(Continued from Page 1)

employees prior to Safety and Total Health Day.

The all-day event will be a time for employees to spend the day discussing, learning and becoming more aware of safety and health issues. All civil servants and contractors, both on site and off site, are encouraged to participate to the maximum extent possible. While the emphasis is on institutional safety and the Total Health employee wellness program, organizations are encouraged to include other safety and health topics.

"For example, we are, statistically, hurting more people at home and on the roads than we are at work, so we have the option to spend time during the stand-down day discussing those important safety

issues," said Larry Neu, chairman of the planning committee.

In addition to the specific topics being developed by each organization, the Safety and Total Health home page has a wealth of information for managers to use in planning their employees' day, and its use is encouraged. This information is available at: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/jsc/safety/safeday.html>

"It's shaping up to be a great day," Neu said. "I have been in contact with a lot of different organizations on and off site and it's impressive to see the energies and ideas going into making this event important to the employees' health and safety needs. I urge everyone to use this day to the fullest advantage."

For more information on Safety and Total Health Day call x45078.